

Luella Middle School Chorus Syllabus

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Course Description

Chorus is offered as a Connections class at all three grade levels. Variety is very important in many aspects of the course, including repertoire studied, instruction provided, and evaluations conducted. The focus of the LMS Choral Program is comprehensive musicianship, producing singers who can read music independently and make strong performance choices individually with regard to historical and theoretical context. Vocal development is also considered, as most male and female singers experience a voice change sometime during middle school. All students will learn performance etiquette as performers and audience members through experience on both sides of the stage. Performance opportunities are varied, and include on-campus and off-campus venues. Some students will also be selected for state honor chorus and/or invited to audition for the Georgia All-State Chorus in Savannah. Dates are included in this packet, but more information will be provided about concerts as the school year progresses.

Course Objectives

The course is designed to:

- ~ Train and develop the student's vocal ability.
- ~ Develop the student's music reading skills.
- ~ Enhance the student's view of music as a source of enjoyment, enrichment, and as disciplines in the arts.
- ~ Develop the student's knowledge of various choral pieces

Course Evaluation

Students are evaluated in two areas each nine weeks: objectives and conduct.

- 🎵 Assignments consist of written and oral assessments, including theory work, history lessons, sight-reading performances, and part checks. Tests will be conducted over assigned material, both written and oral, approximately every two to three weeks.
- 🎵 A student's class participation grade indicates how well he or she performs during music rehearsal, including important points of performance such as correct singing posture, using a pencil to mark music, and staying on task.
- 🎵 Gum and candy are not allowed in chorus both for safety reasons; students can choke while singing and chewing gum at the same time, and because it affects their ability to perform!
- 🎵 Performances are the culmination of every choral objective and are considered extremely important. Every student is expected to perform at concerts and may only be excused due to illness or emergency. Students excused from concert attendance must schedule a time to perform the concert repertoire individually for the choral director. The concert should be made up in person so that performance etiquette can be objectively evaluated. Parents are notified *well in advance* of each performance date in order to plan effectively. Because

chorus is a co-curricular subject and every voice is critical, students are graded for concerts beyond the normal school day and must make every effort to attend.

🎵 Classroom management is also crucial in large classes, and therefore certain basic expectations must be maintained for the benefit of all students. Students are considered late to class if not in their seats with their materials when warm-ups begin.

🎵 The second tardy will result in a consequence and a loss of class participation points.

🎵 The third and fourth tardies will result in detention, and upon the fifth tardy an infraction on the disciplinary step plan will be recorded.

🎵 Restroom breaks may only be taken with an agenda book and should be saved for emergency situations.

Objective Evaluation Conduct Evaluation

*DCP ---	35%
Concerts, Quizzes, Tests---	50%
Final Assessments---	15%

S= Satisfactory N= Needs Improvement U= Unsatisfactory
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**DCP: Daily Classroom Participation- grades include rehearsal assessments, written assignments, and class participation points.*

Course Materials

- 1 box of tissues
- 3-prong folder (8th grade **Blue** / 7th grade **Red** / 6th grade **Black**)
- Notebook paper and a pencil for written assignments and for marking music.

No pen will be accepted.

- Chorus uniform: Full-length khaki pants with NO design, brown closed toe shoes, and a chorus polo shirt. Chorus polos will be available for students to purchase in late August for approximately \$20. More detailed information will be sent home regarding uniforms.

Please have all your materials in class no later than August 9, 2010.

Music and Textbooks

Students will sing from single copies of printed music, which may be assigned for the nine weeks or shared with a partner each day. Occasionally other music sources will be employed, such as textbooks, music dictionaries, etc., and they will be supplied in class.

Concert Dates (Required attendance) / Place & Time

- Fall Concert: November 18, 2010 - Cafeteria (7th & 8th grade only) – 6:00pm
- Spring Concert: May 10, 2011-2:30pm (6th grade only)/May 12, 2011-6:30pm (7th & 8th grade)

Optional Dates (attendance is NOT required)

- All-State first audition: TBA
- GMEA Honor Chorus: TBA
- All-State second audition: TBA

***Syllabus is subject to change as deemed by the teacher.

Parent & Student Agreement Form

Please sign and return this form to Ms. Johnson no later than August 13, 2010

Parent Volunteers:

In the past, we have had parents check where they would like to help or assist. If you are able to assist in any of the following tasks whenever needed, please check all that apply and provide the necessary information below.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chaperoning Day Trips | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chaperoning Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Video Recording |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Props/Costumes (Spring Show) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Uniforms | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

E-mail Access:

Parent name: _____ Email: _____
Phone number: _____
Student name: _____ Email: _____

Media Release

The Chorus Department is in the process of creating a website with photos of chorus students, and small video clips. I would like to send pictures, but need parental consent for a picture to be published; therefore, we need a media release from each child. Simply check the appropriate box for your child.

- I give permission for my child's photograph to be used on the Luella Middle School website or the Henry County Public Schools website.
- I do not want my child's photograph used.

PLEASE SIGN BELOW:

We have read and understood the Luella Middle School chorus syllabus, and will keep our copy for future reference. We will also attend every required concert unless there is an emergency, about which we will notify the choral director before the concert if at all possible, or immediately following. We understand that a portion of our student's grade is derived from required activities that take place outside the school day.

Parent signature

Student signature